



Illinois Supreme Court upholds state's ban on semiautomatic weapons



Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker hugs gun control advocate Maria Pike after he signed comprehensive legislation to ban military-style firearms on Jan. 10, 2023, at the Illinois State Capitol in Springfield, Ill. (Brian Cassella/Chicago Tribune via AP, file)

The history and meaning of the Aruban florin



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Illinois Supreme Court upholds state's ban on semiautomatic weapons

By John O'Connor
 Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — The Illinois Supreme Court has upheld the state's ban on the sale or possession of the type of semiautomatic weapons used in hundreds of mass killings nationally. In a 4-3 decision Friday, the high court found that the Protect Our Communities Act does not violate the federal Constitution's guarantee of equal protection of the law nor the state constitution's bar on special legislation.

The court also decreed that state Rep. Dan Caulkins, a Decatur Republican, a Decatur pawn broker and like-minded Macon County gun-owners who brought the lawsuit had earlier waived their claims that the law infringes on the Second Amendment to own firearms and could not raise it before the Supreme Court. It's a claim Caulkins' attorney vehemently denies. The Second Amendment claim is alive, however,



Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker hugs gun control advocate Maria Pike after he signed comprehensive legislation to ban military-style firearms on Jan. 10, 2023, at the Illinois State Capitol in Springfield, Ill. (Brian Cassella/Chicago Tribune via AP, file)

in several federal lawsuits filed in southern Illinois, later consolidated and awaiting appeals court action. With Washington state adopting a similar law in April, there are now 10 states plus the District of Columbia that have prohibitions on semiautomatic firearms. The law bans dozens of specific brands or types

of rifles and handguns, .50-caliber guns, attachments and rapid-firing devices. No rifle is allowed to accommodate more than 10 rounds, with a 15-round limit for handguns. The most popular gun targeted is the AR-15 rifle, which can be found in at least 25 million American households, according to 2021 research by Georgetown University.

But it carves out exceptions. Those who possessed semiautomatic guns before it became effective on Jan. 10 are allowed to keep them but must register them with the state police by Jan. 1, 2024. And seven categories of "trained professionals," such as police officers, active-duty military, corrections officials and qualified security guards, may carry them. Bolstered by the 2022 U.S. Supreme Court case that determined Americans have a right to carry weapons in public for self-defense, Caulkins argued that the plaintiffs and those granted exemptions to the ban are "similarly situated" in that they all hold required Firearm Owners Identification Cards and are protected by the Second Amendment, but were not given equal protection of the laws when the ban was applied to them. Justice Elizabeth Rochford, writing for the majority, countered that in the

case of grandfathered gun owners, there's no dissimilar treatment. And just having a FOID card doesn't mean a gun owner has arrest powers or other duties assigned to the trained professionals, nor the training and experience with the firearms they carry.

"The equal protection clause guarantees that similarly situated individuals will be treated in a similar manner, unless the government can demonstrate an appropriate reason to treat those individuals differently," Rochford wrote. "The equal protection clause does not forbid the Legislature from drawing distinctions in legislation among different categories of people as long as the Legislature does not draw those distinctions based on criteria wholly unrelated to the legislation's purpose." Caulkins' attorney, Jerrold Stocks, said additional legal action was likely, including a potential appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Judge warns of restraints to what evidence Trump can talk about, agrees to limited protective order

By Lindsay Whitehurst, No-
 maan Merchant and Mi-
 chael Kunzelman
 Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The federal judge overseeing the election conspiracy case against Donald Trump warned Friday that there are limits on what the former president can publicly say about evidence in the investigation as he campaigns for a second term in the White House. Presiding over her first hearing for the case, U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan in Washington heard arguments on how to structure a protective order for evidence turned over by prosecutors, a common step in criminal cases. But she also used the forum to address the case's unprecedented mix of legal and political concerns.

Chutkan stressed that political considerations wouldn't guide her decisions. She also repeatedly said Trump was subject to the court's rules as a defendant before trial even as he runs for the 2024 Republican nomination for president.

"Your client's defense is supposed to happen in this courtroom, not on the internet," Chutkan told Trump's lawyers.

The judge said that the more anyone makes "inflamatory" statements about the case, the greater her urgency will be to move the case more quickly to trial to prevent witness intimidation or jury pool contamination. She noted that "arguably ambiguous statements" could be construed as intimidation or harassment of potential witnesses.



Former President Donald Trump walks to speak with reporters before boarding his plane at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, Aug. 3, 2023, in Arlington, Va. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon, File)

"I will take whatever measures are necessary to safeguard the integrity of the case," she said. A prosecutor said the Justice Department was prepared to turn over an initial batch of more than 11

million pages of evidence to Trump's lawyers in the first criminal case seeking to hold Trump accountable for his efforts to cling to power before an angry mob of supporters fueled by his election lies attacked

the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. Chutkan agreed with Trump's defense team on a looser version of a protective order barring the public release only of materials deemed sensitive, like grand jury materials. But prosecutors consider most of the evidence in the case to be sensitive, and she largely sided with the government on what will get that label and protections. Thomas Windom, a top deputy to special counsel Jack Smith, also argued Trump needs safeguards when he reviews case materials. In another sign of the unique circumstances facing the former president, Windom quipped about the indictment Trump faces in Florida after classified materials were discovered in his Mar-a-Lago residence.

Kenosha police arrested a Black man at Applebee's. The actual suspects were in the bathroom

Associated Press

KENOSHA, Wis. (AP) — Police in Kenosha, Wisconsin, have launched an internal investigation after a video posted to social media appears to show an officer punching a Black man the officer mistakenly believed was involved in a hit-and-run crash.

The incident is another blemish for the southeastern Wisconsin city, which endured days of protests three years ago after a white police officer shot Jacob Blake, who is Black, during a domestic disturbance. A white Illinois teenager named Kyle Rittenhouse shot three people during a night of unrest, killing two of them, an incident that became a flashpoint in the national debate over guns, vigilantism and racial injustice.

The hit-and-run crash happened on July 20, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported this week. Police said that witnesses told them they saw two Black men and a Black woman flee toward an Applebee's



Tanya McLean, executive director of Leaders of Kenosha, said she and members of other groups want to know why police officers are not being respectful to community members in Kenosha, Wis., Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023.

(Joe States/The Kenosha News via AP)

restaurant. One witness said the woman was carrying a child, according to police.

An Applebee's employee told officers that some "suspicious people" who may have been involved in the

crash were in the restaurant and directed officers to two people, including a Black man holding a baby. The officers tried to take the baby from the man and arrest him. The man yelled that he hadn't done

anything wrong and officers should let him go. The video shows that after the officers removed the baby from his arms, they threw him to the ground and an officer began punching him as he ordered the man

to put his hands behind his back.

Officers then discovered the people responsible for the crash in the restaurant's bathroom.

Police said the man who was punched wasn't responsible for the crash but tried to leave in defiance of officers' orders and resisted them.

Lt. Joseph Nosalik, a spokesperson for the Kenosha Police Department, didn't immediately respond to an email from The Associated Press inquiring about the race of the officer who appeared to punch the man. Kenosha found itself embroiled in a days-long protest in August 2020 after Officer Rusten Sheskey, who is white, shot Jacob Blake, who is Black, during a domestic disturbance. Rittenhouse, who was 17 at the time, fatally shot two men and wounded another, saying he had been attacked and fired in self-defense. A jury acquitted him of homicide and endangerment charges in November 2021. □

California judge who's charged with murder texted court staff that he shot his wife, prosecutors say

By Amy Taxin

Associated Press

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP) — A Southern California judge accused of killing his wife texted his court clerk and bailiff afterward to say he had shot her, prosecutors said Friday as they charged him with murder and sought new bail conditions.

A court filing from prosecutors says Orange County Superior Court Judge Jeffrey Ferguson texted: "I just lost it. I just shot my wife. I won't be in tomorrow. I will be in custody. I'm so sorry." Prosecutors also say that 47 weapons and more than 26,000 rounds of ammunition were recovered during a search of his home, including the pistol used in the shooting. Authorities said the weapons were legally owned. A rifle reg-

istered in his name is not accounted for, according to the district attorney's office.

The shooting happened after Ferguson and his wife, Sheryl Ferguson, were arguing at a restaurant on Aug. 3, prosecutors said in their court filing. They continued

arguing after returning to their home in the upscale neighborhood of Anaheim Hills. The court document says the wife said something to the effect of "why don't you point a real gun at me?" and he pulled a pistol from his ankle holster and shot her in the chest.



Investigators remove firearms from a house in the 8500 block of E. Canyon Vista Dr. in Anaheim, Calif., on Aug. 4, 2023.
(Paul Bersebach/The Orange County Register via AP, File)

The document says their adult son called 911 and said his father had been drinking too much and shot his mom.

Jeffrey Ferguson also called 911 to vaguely report the shooting. When asked if he shot his wife, he said he didn't want to talk about it at that time and she needed paramedics.

When officers arrived, Ferguson smelled of alcohol and told them, "Oh man I can't believe I did this," according to the document. Ferguson, 72, was arrested last week. He was released a day later on \$1 million bail and is set to be arraigned on Sept. 1.

On Friday, prosecutors charged Ferguson with murder with weapons-related enhancements. They want him to surrender his

passport, wear an ankle monitor and possess no alcohol or firearms.

Ferguson's attorneys, Paul Meyer and John Barnett, issued a brief statement and declined to answer questions.

"This is a tragedy for the entire Ferguson family. It was an accident and nothing more," they said.

Ferguson has been a judge since 2015. He handles criminal cases in the Orange County city of Fullerton.

He started his legal career in the Orange County district attorney's office in 1983 and went on to work narcotics cases, for which he won various awards. He served as president of the North Orange County Bar Association from 2012 to 2014. □

Fund sued over grant program for Black women enlists prominent civil rights attorneys to fight back

By Halleluya Hadero
Associated Press

(AP) - Attorneys for an Atlanta-based venture capital firm being sued over a grant program for Black women vowed Thursday to fight back against the lawsuit, calling it misguided and frivolous.

At a New York news conference, the attorneys also announced that prominent civil rights lawyers, including Ben Crump, would join the defense for the Fearless Fund, which was founded in 2019 by three Black women.

The lawsuit, filed last week in U.S. District Court in Atlanta, was brought by a nonprofit founded by anti-affirmative action activist Edward Blum, the man behind the Supreme Court cases that led to the dismantling of race-conscious college admissions programs across the U.S.

The complaint could be a test case, as the battle over considerations on race shifts to the workplace. Last month, thirteen Republican



Arian Simone, a Partner at Fearless Fund, speaks during a news conference Thursday, Aug. 10, 2023, in New York.

(AP Photo/Frank Franklin II)

state attorneys general sent a letter to 100 of the biggest U.S. companies arguing that the court ruling on affirmative action could also apply to private entities, like employers.

In its lawsuit, American Alliance For Equal Rights

argues the fund's Fearless Strivers Grant Contest, which awards \$20,000 to Black women who run businesses, violates a section of the Civil Rights Act of 1866 prohibiting racial discrimination in contracts. It claims it has members who

are being excluded from the program because of their race and said it's entitled to relief.

The venture capital firm was established to address barriers that exists in venture capital funding for businesses led by women of

color. It runs the grant contest four times a year. To be eligible, a business must be at least 51% owned by a Black woman, among other qualifications.

"Today, the playing field is not level that is beyond dispute," Alphonso David, a civil rights attorney who serves as president & CEO of The Global Black Economic Forum, said at the news conference. "Those targeting Fearless Fund want to propagate a system that privileges some and shuts out most. They want us to pretend that inequities do not exist. They want us to deny our history."

Crump said he was grateful to be able to defend the women who run the Fund against "the enemies of equality."

Blum "thought they would be the easiest ones to pick off. Oh, was he wrong," Crump said.

Blum said Thursday his organization is still awaiting a formal reply to the lawsuit from the fund's attorneys. □

Investigators say miscommunication between pilots caused United plane to drop near ocean's surface

By David Koenig
Associated Press

(AP) - Federal investigators said Thursday that miscommunication between pilots led to a United Airlines jet diving within 748 feet (228 meters) of the ocean's surface shortly after takeoff from Hawaii in December. The National Transportation Safety Board said in a final report that the crew failed to manage the plane's vertical path, airspeed and nose direction after the mix-up between the captain and co-pilot.

After a normal takeoff during heavy rain at Kahului Airport on the island of Maui, the captain asked the co-pilot, or first officer, to reset the wing flaps, but the co-pilot heard "15" instead of "five," according to the NTSB.

Soon the pilots realized that the plane was pitched downward and accelerating.

"At this point I knew the captain was having difficulty with airspeed control ... I couldn't be certain what the captain was dealing with," the co-pilot later told investigators.

The plane's nose continued to pitch down, and the co-pilot saw through the windshield that they were breaking through the cloud cover.

"I instantly recognized the severity of our situation," he said. "I announced, 'Pull up, pull up, pull up, pull up' many times." The plane's

ground proximity warning system sounded an alarm too.

From more than 2,200 feet (670 meters), the Boeing 777 plunged more than 1,400 feet (427 meters) toward the Pacific Ocean before the pilots who were not named in the report were able to recover, according to the NTSB.

The captain said he decided to continue on to San Francisco after the chief flight attendant told him that "everyone was OK" and there was no apparent damage to the plane. The rest of the trip was routine.

There were 271 passengers and 10 crew members on board. The 55-year-old captain had nearly 20,000 hours of flying experience, a considerable amount.

The co-pilot had 5,300 hours of flight time.

Both are still flying for United, the airline said.

"There's nothing more important than the safety of our crew and customers, which is why we're drawing on the lessons learned from this flight to inform the training of all United pilots," said United spokesman Joshua Freed. "Our pilots voluntarily reported this event and United fully cooperated with the independent investigation" to improve safety for the entire industry.

The Federal Aviation Administration, which regulates airlines, said earlier this year that the United pilots reported the incident under a voluntary safety-reporting program. □



A United Airlines jetliner taxis to a runway for take off from Denver International Airport, Dec. 27, 2022.

(AP Photo/David Zalubowski, File)

Britain's barge for asylum seekers faces new setback as legionella bacteria found in water system

By Danica Kirka
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britain's plan to house asylum seekers on a barge moored off the south coast of England ran into another hurdle on Friday as authorities were forced to evacuate the first residents after legionella bacteria was found in the water system.

The move came just days after the first men were moved onto the Bibby Stockholm, a floating hostel that can accommodate up to 500 people, as part of a government effort to cut the cost of sheltering the growing number of people applying for asylum in Britain. "As a precautionary measure, all 39 asylum seekers who arrived on the vessel this week are being disembarked while further assessments are undertaken," the Home Office, which oversees immigration issues, said in a statement. "No individuals on board have presented with



The Bibby Stockholm accommodation barge at Portland Port in Dorset, England, Tuesday August 1, 2023. (James Manning/PA via AP)

symptoms of legionnaires' (disease), and asylum seekers are being provided with appropriate advice and support."

Samples from the ship's water system were found to contain the bacteria

that causes legionnaires' disease, the Home Office said. Authorities are waiting for the results of follow up tests and are following advice from the U.K. Health Security Agency about what steps should be tak-

en. Legionnaires' disease is a serious respiratory infection caused when people inhale tiny water droplets containing the bacteria. It is not transmitted person-to-person, but is found in

the cooling systems of large buildings and water lines that are not in regular use. While symptoms are similar to the flu, legionnaires' disease can be treated with antibiotics.

The disease warning is just the latest setback for the government's much publicized plan to move asylum seekers onto the Bibby Stockholm from more costly hotel accommodation around the country. In recent weeks, firefighters raised concerns about safety precautions on the barge and migrant rights advocates questioned whether it was appropriate to house people fleeing war and persecution in such cramped conditions. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has promoted the barge as a cheaper way to house asylum seekers after the cost of the program ballooned following a jump in the number of applicants and delays in processing their claims. □

Man in Bosnia kills ex-wife live on Instagram and kills 2 more people before taking his own life

Associated Press

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — A man in Bosnia shot and killed his ex-wife while streaming the slaying live on Instagram and then killed two other people while on the run before taking his own life Friday, according to police and media reports.

The attack took place in the northeastern Bosnian town of Gradacac, where the assailant left three people wounded before he "committed suicide after being located and before being apprehended," police in the city of Tuzla said in a statement.

Bosnia is still reeling from a bloody war in the 1990s and violence against women is widespread, but the ex-wife's livestreamed slaying shocked people in the Balkan country. Prosecutors said that after

killing her, the man went onto the streets of Gradacac with a pistol and shot and killed a man and his son. He also wounded a police officer, another man and a woman at various locations in the town.

"I have no words to de-

scribe what happened today in Gradacac," said Nermin Niksic, the prime minister of the Bosnian Federation. "The murderer took his own life in the end, but no one can bring back the lives of the victims."

Authorities did not immedi-

ately offer possible motives for the shootings. Officials and Bosnian media said the ex-wife had reported threats and violence from her partner in the past and that the shooter, identified by local media as Gradacac resident Nermin Sulejmanovic, had a police record.

The man posted a video on Instagram on Friday morning, telling viewers that they would see a murder live. The video then shows him taking a gun and firing a bullet into a woman's forehead as the cry of child is heard from somewhere nearby. The video later was removed from Instagram. As police pursued the man, he livestreamed two more videos on Instagram, claiming to have shot at least two other people while on the run. Officials later said some 12,000 people

watched the slaying live, and the video received 126 likes.

"This is a huge shame for our society," Bosnian Human Rights Minister Sevid Hurtic said. Hurtic noted that 19 women were slaying victims in 2020 and 2021; Bosnia has a population of 3.2 million.

Bosnian media said Sulejmanovic, 35, was a bodybuilder and fitness coach with past arrests on charges of drug smuggling and attacking a police officer. Police said people who wrote supportive messages while clicking on the man's Instagram posts Friday would be questioned and could possibly face legal consequences.

The U.N.'s resident coordinator in Bosnia, Ingrid MacDonald, was among those expressing shock at the day's events.



A plain-clothes police officer holds a rifle as they launch a major chase for a man who claimed to have shot and killed his wife while broadcasting it live on Instagram, in the small town of Gradacac, Bosnia, Friday, Aug. 11, 2023. (AP Photo)

Forensic audit into Lebanon's central bank reveals misconduct and 'illegitimate' commissions

By Bassem Mroue
 Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — A forensic audit into Lebanon's central bank by a New York-based company has revealed yearslong misconduct by the bank's former governor and \$111 million in "illegitimate commissions," according to a report by the company.

It's the latest chapter in the saga of Lebanon's embattled former central bank governor Riad Salameh, 73, who ended his 30-year career as governor last month under a cloud of investigation and blame for his country's economic meltdown. A copy of the 331-page document by Alvarez & Marsal, seen by The Associated Press, was handed over to parliament on Friday. The audit was among key demands by the international community and the International Monetary Fund, which over the years increasingly lost confidence in crisis-hit Lebanon. Lebanon's govern-



Riad Salameh the governor of Lebanon's Central Bank, listens to a journalist's question during a press conference, in Beirut, Lebanon, Nov. 11, 2019.

ment and Alvarez & Marsal signed a contract in September 2021 but the audit subsequently stalled. It covers the period between 2015 and 2020; Lebanon's economic meltdown began in October 2019.

Alvarez & Marsal said the central bank's "refusal to provide direct access to its systems and to allow work to be conducted" on its premises had "significantly delayed and slowed" the audit. The report in one

section focuses, among other things, on the practice of so-called financial engineering that started in 2015 and was used by the central bank to allow local lenders to attract dollar deposits from abroad and

then encourage the banks to deposit the dollars at the central bank. In return, the lenders were given interest rates higher than international market rates.

"Financial engineering was costly," the report said.

The central bank's foreign currency shortage grew dramatically from a foreign currency surplus of \$7.2 billion at the end of 2015, to a shortage of \$50.7 billion at the end of 2020. The report says this was driven by a 119% increase in foreign currency denominated deposits, fueled by the central bank. On Thursday, the United States, United Kingdom, and Canada slapped Salameh and a handful of his close relatives and associates with sanctions over corruption allegations.

Also, France, Germany and Luxembourg are investigating Salameh and several close associates over alleged financial crimes, including illicit enrichment and the laundering of \$330 million. □

Ecuador holds 6 Colombians in slaying of presidential candidate as violence weighs on nation

By Gabriela Molina and Regina Garcia Cano
 Associated Press

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) — Ecuador will hold six Colombian men for at least a month as the country probes their

involvement in the slaying of a presidential candidate whose life's work was fighting crime and corruption, the national prosecutor's office said Friday.

A public ceremony to

mourn Fernando Villavicencio was held Friday in the capital convention center, while a separate funeral service was being held for relatives.

"People need to know that his family's in danger and we can't go to such a big event," the victim's daughter, Tamia Villavicencio, told reporters outside the cemetery.

The Colombian men were arrested Wednesday in connection with Villavicencio's killing in the capital, Quito, earlier in the day. The men, whose nationalities were announced late Thursday, will be detained for at least 30 days in the investigation, but will almost certainly be held for months or years as the case plays out.

They face as many as 26 years in prison each.

Villavicencio was not a front-runner in the race, but his assassination in broad daylight less than two weeks before a special presidential election shocked the country and demonstrated how surging crime will challenge Ecuador's next leader. Violence linked to gangs and cartels have claimed thousands of lives in the past few years.

The suspects were captured hiding in a house in Quito, according to an arrest report reviewed by The Associated Press. Law enforcement officers seized four shotguns, a 5.56-mm rifle, ammunition and three grenades as well as a vehicle and one motorcycle, the report said. Investigators said they found 64 shell casings at the scene of the shooting.

Villavicencio, 59, had said

he was threatened by affiliates of Mexico's Sinaloa cartel, one of a slew of international organized crime groups that now operate in Ecuador. He said his campaign represented a threat to such groups.

Armed Colombian groups have long used the porous border with Ecuador to hide from the authorities in a region scarred by both cocaine trafficking and deadly political battles between Colombian factions and state forces.

With almost 400 miles (640 kilometers) of Pacific coast, shipping ports and some key exports, Ecuador has been turned by international traffickers from a minor player in the drug business into a hub for the smuggling of cocaine from neighboring Colombia and Peru. □



A funeral home worker fits an Ecuadorean flag over the coffin of slain presidential candidate Fernando Villavicencio at Camposanto Monteolivo cemetery in Quito, Ecuador, Friday, Aug. 11, 2023.

Did you know about...?

The history and meaning of the Aruban florin

(Oranjestad)—Aruba Today is proud to officially introduce a new segment called *Did you know about...?*, where we dive into some (historical) facts of Aruba, its culture and way of living. In this first edition, we look back at the Aruban florin: its history, design and symbolism.

In Aruba, we know the 5, 10, 25 and 50 cent coins, along with the 1 and 5 Florin coin. Aruban Florin bills include the 10, 25, 50, 100, and rarely, the 200 bills. In Papiamentu we call our currency Florin, but the umbrella term for money is *placa*. Cents are called *cen* (pronounced: *seng*), both in the singular and plural form. Most coins are circular and their size depend on their worth. However, the 50 cent coin is easily recognizable by their square shape, as is the 5 Florin coin by their golden color. Every coin has the Aruban emblem carved on it, with the other side displaying the worth of the coin. The bigger 1 and 5 florin coins, however, contain the carving of the emblem on one side, while displaying the side profile of the Dutch king, Willem-Alexander, on the other side. When his mother, Princess Beatrix, was reigning queen, it was her profile that was carved on the two coins.

Outdated Aruban coins and their names
In the past, Aruban coins had distinctive names and also varied in worth. For example, a 5-cent coin was once called *Dos placa*; 10-cent coins were called *debchi*; 25-cent coins were called *diez placa* and the 50-cent coin was once called *Yotin* (pronounced: *jo-teen*). We also used a distinctive coins worth 2 ½ cents, called *placa too*. However, this last coin is no longer in use and has become a relic of Aruban money. Back then, the 5-Florin coin used to also be square, but now it is circular.

Aruban bills: their design and symbolism
The Aruban Florin collection contains a variation of colorful bills, displaying incredibly detailed and beautiful designs that tell the story of Aruba on a single piece of paper.

Prior to 2019, the Aruban Florin bills were rela-



tively simpler in design compared to now, but still included beautiful designs and colors, often depicting local animals. These past designs were made by the Aruban artist Everino Fingal in 1990 up to 2019. Between 1990 and 1993, the 5 Florin coin was a bill. The Fingal designs also included a 500-Florin bill, which has now been discontinued.

In 2019, the Central Bank of Aruba commissioned a new design of the Aruba Florin bills, this time selecting artist and former art teacher, Nigel Matthew, to present his new design. Matthew kept the tradition of including local animals and the familiar colors on the bills. However, he included additional designs that represent the Aruban culture and link to the Indigenous inhabitants that were the first to set foot on the island.

Current design and symbolism

10 florin

On the 10-florin bill, you can see a *Turtuga blanco* (white turtle). The blue color symbolizes the blue Caribbean Sea. You can also see the ruins of the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins, a coral motif, and the symbols of *Cas Floria* (traditional Aruban house design) with a piece of mosaic.

25 florin

On this orange bill, you can see an Aruban medicinal plant called *Shoshoro*. The birds *Trupiaal*, *Shoco*, rock drawings, and the symbols of *Cas Floria* with a piece of mosaic are also depicted. There is also a *Purun di ceramica* (clay pot), in reference to the relics left behind by our indigenous ancestors.

50 florin

On this bill, we see the *Cododo* (blue lizard found on the ABC islands), *Cangreu di tera*

(land crab), *Willem III Tower*, and again the symbols of *Cas Floria* with a piece of mosaic, as well as a beach plant called *Banana di rif*. The colors are pink/purple.

100 florin

This bill is green in color, representing nature. Here we see the *Yuwana* (Iguana), *Aloe*, *Toteki* (lizard), the symbols of *Cas Floria* with a piece of mosaic, and a dance group performing the *Baile di cinta* (folkloric dance with silk ribbons).

200 florin

There is another bill with a value of 200 dollars. The brown color symbolizes the earth of Aruba. Here we see the *Dornasol* and the *Warawara*—both local birds, along with the symbols of *Cas Floria* with a piece of mosaic, the *Tuna cactus* plant, and the *Caha di orgel* (folkloric instrument, used for many traditional songs).

Extra fact:

the word “florin” supposedly is named after the Italian city of Florence or it’s a reference to the Italian word “florino”, both explanations related to historical Italian currencies.

Source: *Placa, placa, placa* by the National Library of Aruba



2,000,000 SUMMER POINT GIVEAWAY – 20 WINNERS DAILY



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Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba’s visitors.

Emergency services
 Even though most people don’t even want to think

about having to contact emergency services—especially not while on their vacation, it is still important to know what number to dial in case of the unlikely event of an accident or severe incident.

Police: 100
 Police Tipline: 11141
 Ambulance: 911
 Fire Dept: 115
 Oranjestad: HOH hospital:



+297-527-4000
 San Nicolas: ImSan: +297-527-8833

Electrical power
 Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Drinking water
 The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba’s drinking water exceeds WHO’s international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Supermarket hours
 Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Taxis
 Prices for taxi fair are set by the Department of Pub-

lic Traffic and are based on destination rather than mileage. Most taxis can take up to five passengers, but this may vary depending on the vehicle. Taxis are pretty much always available and you can ever hire one for \$45 an hour.

Safety
 Aruba is one of the safest islands in the Caribbean, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.






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Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Costa Linda Beach Resort

EAGLE BEACH - Recently, Aruba Tourism Authority representative Ms. Marouska Heyliger had the great pleasure in honoring many loyal Aruba visitors with their distinctive certificates. These certificates are a way to say “Masha Danki” for continuously choosing Aruba as a favorite vacation destination. The titles are as following: 10+ years “Distinguished Visitor”, 20+ years “Goodwill Ambassador” and 36+ years “Emerald Ambassador”.

The honorees are William H. Smith from New Jersey who have been honored as Goodwill Ambassadors as well as Adeoye and Gloria Tinubu from Georgia who have also been honored as Goodwill Ambassadors. This symbolic honorary title is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba between the 10-20-35 and more consecutive year mark.

The top reasons that the honorees provided for returning to the island was the warm weather,

the wonderful and friendly people, the variety of cuisines, the beautiful beaches and the feeling of this being home away from home.

Ms. Marouska Heyliger representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and members of Costa Linda Beach Resort bestowed the Ambassador certification to the honorees, presented them with gifts, and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and their home-away-from-home.



Aruba to me

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Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

Episode 33

Habitat destructionThe Aruban Borrowing Owl

Eco-cide: Is the process of destroying the natural way of life in such a manner that it becomes completely incapable of supporting its native species, turning the land in to something worse than a desert. In an unregulated or unsupervised process of progress, lives that previously used a specific part of the land as their habitat have become victims, exposed to being displaced or destroyed; condemning our native and unique species to extinction is not an option.

Addressing government officials, as well as parliamentary representatives of the imminent actions necessary that should be considered against habitat destruction and that nature is to be taken in consideration as condition number one no matter what the plan is. The purpose of developing our tourist industry, has reached its sustainable capability. Reconsidering depleting our natural resources for economic and urbanization purposes. Clearing habitats for hotels, housing, commercial and infrastructure facilities is the principal cause of habitat destruction. Adding to this, the harming effects UTV's causes when off-roads up and down like extras of a Mad Max seen, followed by sand and lime stone mining activities, illegal trawling, trashing, dumping and urbanization.

Habitat destruction is currently ranked as the primary cause of species disappearance all over the planet. Imagine on a tiny island like ours, confronting a constant process of natural environmental change that is mainly caused by habitat fragmentation, geological processes as erosion, climate change or by human activities, such as the introduction of invasive



species, especially cats and snakes as the boa constrictor, insects, lizards and amphibians of adjacent ecosystems that easily can alter the balance of nature.

At this rate of development our: 1. Burrowing owl and the 2. Aruban rattlesnake: *Crotalus durissus unicolor* are close to many of being the next species that runs the same fate as of the 3. Blauduif, or Red-necked: *Columba squamosa* and 4. Lora or Cota, the Yellow-Shouldered Amazon: *Amazona barbadensis*, not to mention these two birds have completely disappeared off the island due to human activities in to their habitat.

The illusion that we must grow economically by taking over nature will soon collect its toll, if we do not act and take our fragile ecosystem in consideration. What is going on now on Aruba is unprecedented if we see how much ecocide has been taken place lately versus the last 30 years. Encouraged by generous incentives whose only goal is exploiting the property to the max. Human, as well as island re-

sources were to be shared with visitors. The islands way of life, is where all its value rests upon and all we have to offer besides our genuine Aruban friendship our mystic landscapes and ecosystem. We must realize that devaluation and "eco-degradation" occurs with every tree we cut, every building we erect, every emigrant we import, with every habitat we destroy we kill many species. We should guard our patrimony. We must keep the island life, otherwise we will be dealing with a nation severely affected by social problems which demands large public funding to address and resolve many new issues we today can prevent. Social education and Cultural preservation is imminent.

When we talk about owls many of you would think of a large bird, swooping down at night on prey, hooting loudly from a tree, like you have seen on cartoons on movies. However our burrowing owl_ the only species of owls found on Aruba_ hardly fits the mold. This small, spindly-legged owl lives on the ground, is seen hunting during

the day, and makes soft cackling sounds

Aruba's Borrowing Owl: 1 (*Athene cunicularia arubensis*), known as Shoco, in Papiamentu, which most probably derives from the Caquetian "Xeque", the Aruban endemic sub-species of the burrowing owl family.

Standing about 7-10 inches tall, this little owl gets its name from where it lives. Burrowing owls are often found in abandoned rodent burrows, old tubes, most often the dig a nest in sand mounds. Far from trees, they nest and live near their burrows. Their brown-mottled feathers help them blend in to the surrounding landscape where they dine on insects, small mammals, and sometimes reptiles and amphibians.

Burrowing owls can be difficult to spot if they are not moving. In addition to their ability to naturally camouflage with their environment, an owl appears from a distance to be just another prairie dog standing sentry near its underground home. An observer must carefully scan a prairie dog colony with binoculars, looking carefully for any movements from the owls. The reward may be seeing the little dancing hops the owls sometimes do as they bob around on their long legs.

Burrowing owls catch food as they walk or run along the ground, and sometimes snatch insects in midair as they fly just above the surface. Much of their food sources are available during the day, but they are also active at night.

Source; Island Insight column by Etia Nativia



Unique fauna of Aruba

For a small island, Aruba sure has a lot of unique treasures. Among these, we have some subspecies of animals that are unique to our island. These have evolved to perfectly adapt to our desert climate and make Aruba their home. At the same time, they are part of what makes Aruba truly one of a kind.

Cascabel (rattlesnake, *Crotalus durissus unicolor*)

According to the Arikok National Park, Aruba knows two kinds of snakes, the Santanero and the Cascabel. The cascabel belongs to the rattlesnake family. The cascabel is the only venomous snake from Aruba. It has a length of 65cm to 100cm, and is about 4 to 5cm wide. Its color varies from light brown to grey-brown, and its underbelly is white. On its back there are marks that are a little darker, in the shape of diamonds.

Its reproduction is oviparous, meaning the offspring can hatch from their eggs just before, during or immediately after laying.

The cascabel lives mainly in the Arikok National Park. It likes to live in dark places, and is thus found hidden among the limestone rocks and under stones. As a defense mechanism, the cascabel uses its rattle as a warning, and it is not an aggressive animal.

The cascabel feeds on lizards, small mammals such as rats and mice. It paralyzes or kills its prey with its venom, which is injected through a bite. The enemies of the cascabel are donkeys, goats, humans and cars. Humans are the biggest enemy of the cascabel, as they kill them and destroy their habitat for urbanization.



Shoco (burrowing owl, *Athene cunicularia arubensis*)

The shoco is a small bird which is seldom seen. They are active during the day but are more active later in the day and at night for hunting. These owls have very good night vision and very good hearing.

The shoco is the national symbol of Aruba.

The shoco has about 20cm of length, and the females are slightly heavier than the males. They are light brown in color, with many white spots. The belly of the Shoco is either white or light brown, and the shoco has striking yellow eyes. Its beak is yellow/green. Young owls do not have white spots and are lighter in color.

The nest of the shoco is a burrow in the ground.



If the shoco cannot find a burrow, it will dig one in soft soil. The shoco lays one or two eggs every other day until all the eggs are laid – a shoco can lay up to four eggs. The first owlets hatch after three to four weeks. The shoco owl takes care of the owlets for three months until they leave the nest. Only a few owlets survive.

The owls dig burrows in the ground with low grass vegetation. An owl can live up to nine years.

Its defense mechanism is simply to fly away or retreat to its burrows. They eat mostly insects, mice and lizards, and the main threats to their survival are boas – an invasive species introduced by humans as pets – and humans through destruction of their habitat.

Prikichi (parakeet, *Aratinga pertinax*)

The Prikichi is the national bird of Aruba. On Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao, parakeets can be found, but each of the three islands has a different breed. The Yellow-shouldered Amazon parakeet that we have on Aruba is also found along the coast of Venezuela. Unfortunately, there is interbreeding between the breeds due to cage birds from, for example, Curaçao being released on Aruba. The parakeet population on Aruba is in danger due to extensive deforestation occurring on the island because of the growing population.

The prikichi weighs between 90 to 100 grams. It has a greenish-brown head with some yellow around the eye. The back and wings of the parakeet are dark green, and the underside of the body is a lighter shade of green. There is also a bit of blue in the wings. The parakeet's beak is gray/black.

Parakeets often use termite nests as breeding sites. Parakeets are found in all natural environments (mondi) of the island. It defends itself by flying away and loud cries. Parakeets eat seeds from the pods of the Kwihi tree, Divi Divi, and columnar cactus. They also consume natural



fruits. Its main predators are boa constrictors, humans.

Conew (cottontail rabbit, *Sylvilagus floridanus nigronuchalis*)

The Eastern Cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*) was probably brought over to the island by Indian settlers thousands of years ago as a source of food. This rabbit, locally known as Conew, has spread all over the island and has become part of our ecosystem. The very adaptable Conew can live in a wide variety of habitats, including Aruba's xeric scrublands, where it typically grazes on weeds and grasses.



The Aruban Conew has a brownish grey color and a distinctive white belly. This white fur extends to the bottom of the tail which becomes visible as the rabbit runs. These rabbits can grow up to approximately 40 centimeters in length over their short lifespan of 3 years. Cottontail rabbits reach reproductive maturity when they are just 2 to 3 months old. A female rabbit, called a doe, finds a suitable nest spot under a shrub or rocks and lines it with fur. She can have an average of 3 to 4 litters per year averaging 5 young each. The doe only visits her young once or twice a day to nurse her babies for a period of 2 to 3 weeks. The young reach independence at 4 to 5 weeks.

The Aruban Conew is an endangered species and protected by Aruban law. The Conew is thought to have drastically declined due to an increase in human activities, habitat fragmentation and predation by the invasive Boa constrictor as well as feral cats and dogs. However, recently there seem to be more rabbit sightings in rural and wilderness areas and also in the National Park. This could be linked to a recent decline of the invasive Boa population after the long period of drought. As the Conew can reproduce very quickly, a short break in predation pressure can lead to a fast increase of rabbits. Sadly, the Boas are back on the rise again with the truly wet rainy seasons we have recently experienced. This could cause a new decline in the Conew population that was just starting to recover.

These are but a few of Aruba's beautiful inhabitant, which we must all contribute to protect. For more information, visit <https://www.arubanationalpark.org/main/flora-fauna/>

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 39 Some

1 Artist bills

Duchamp 40 Rabble

7 Make finer

11 Crumbly

Italian

cheese

12 Not busy

13 Pinnacle

14 Writer Uris

15 Fixes

copy

16 Sky sights

17 — good

example

18 Thwart

19 Words

of under-

standing

21 Throw in

22 "Shoop"

trio

25 Cobbler's

tool

26 Rapper

Rick

27 Monkey

(with)

29 Play

group

33 Plant

anew

34 Run-down

35 Avenue

liners

36 Music

genre

37 Theater

unit

38 Milestone

birthday

DOWN

1 Crew

members

2 Stage

comment

3 Hit the

ball out

of the

park

4 Marsh

plant

5 They may

clash

6 Cut off

7 Like

riverbeds

8 Brain-

storming

diagram

9 "Club

Can't Han-

dle Me"

rapper

10 Showed

fear

16 Flight

makeup

18 Madrid

mister

20 Scatter

22 "No Flex

Zone"

rapper

23 Beggar

24 Gets away

25 Not active

28 Fence

supports

30 Friend of

d'Artag-

nan

31 Gem

32 Sorts

34 Latvia's

capital

36 Deli meat

8-12

AXYDIBAA XR

is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three I's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

8-12 CRYPTOQUOTE

ZWDEBYCVU CR Y TZ KBR RKVAY

Y V Y TZ M D Y D A Z , M V A

Y V O V A A V F I Z N V U J R Y V Y T V R Z

F T V K A Z K B A Z M V A C Y Y V W B H .

— O B N E V N O P

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN A TART, A PIE AND A QUICHE ARE A BLUR. — YOTAM OTTOLENGHI

A	R	I	S	E	B	A	T	E	S
L	E	T	U	P	O	P	R	A	H
L	A	W	N	S	R	E	U	S	E
U	S	A	I	C	E	E	Y	E	
D	O	S	L	A	D	T	O	N	
E	N	A	M	O	R	C	O	N	S
			G	U	N	S	H	O	T
P	R	O	M	E	I	T	H	E	R
L	E	O	B	A	R	E	M	U	
A	I	D	E	T	A	G	I	N	
I	N	D	I	A	B	L	A	N	D
N	E	A	R	S	L	A	M	E	R
T	R	Y	S	T	E	N	E	M	Y

Yesterday's answer

9 "Club	23 Beggar
Can't Han-	24 Gets away
dle Me"	25 Not active
rapper	28 Fence
10 Showed	supports
fear	30 Friend of
16 Flight	d'Artag-
makeup	nan
18 Madrid	31 Gem
mister	32 Sorts
20 Scatter	34 Latvia's
22 "No Flex	capital
Zone"	36 Deli meat
rapper	

China accuses US of trying to block its development and demands that technology curbs be repealed

By Joe McDonald

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — China accused Washington on Thursday of trying to block its development after President Joe Biden stepped up a feud over technology and security by tightening controls on U.S. investments that might help Beijing develop its military.

The Foreign Ministry accused the Biden administration of pursuing "technology hegemony" and demanded Washington "immediately revoke its erroneous decision." It warned that the latest restrictions in a spreading conflict over Beijing's industrial development would hurt global supply chains. An order signed by Biden on Wednesday targets advanced computer chips, micro electronics, quantum information technologies and artificial intelligence. The order says it wants to limit U.S. investment in industries that might help develop the ruling Communist Party's military wing.



A man reads a Global Times newspaper carrying an article, center, that reads "U.S has resisted strong skepticism about restricting investment in China" posted on a public newspaper bulletin board in Beijing, Thursday, Aug. 10, 2023.

(AP Photo/Andy Wong)

The order adds to restrictions that limit Chinese access to U.S. processor chips used in smartphones, artificial intelligence and other technology on security grounds. Dozens of Chinese companies that Washington says are linked to military modernization are barred from American financial markets. Washington's "true purpose is to deprive China

of its development rights and maintain its own hegemony," the Foreign Ministry said. China will "resolutely safeguard its own rights and interests," the Ministry of Commerce said in a separate statement, but it gave no indication of possible retaliation. Beijing has made similar comments after previous U.S. trade restrictions but usually takes no action. □

FEC moves toward potentially regulating AI deepfakes in campaign ads

By Ali Swenson

Associated Press

(AP) - The Federal Election Commission has begun a process to potentially regulate AI-generated deepfakes in political ads ahead of the 2024 election, a move advocates say would safeguard voters against a particularly insidious form of election disinformation. The FEC's unani-

mous procedural vote on Thursday advances a petition asking it to regulate ads that use artificial intelligence to misrepresent political opponents as saying or doing something they didn't. A stark issue that is already being highlighted in the current 2024 GOP presidential primary. Though the circulation of convincing fake images,

videos or audio clips is not new, innovative generative AI tools are making them cheaper, easier to use, and more likely to manipulate public perception. As a result, some presidential campaigns in the 2024 race including that of Florida GOP Gov. Ron DeSantis already are using them to persuade voters. The Republican National Committee in April released an entirely AI-generated ad meant to show the future of the United States if President Joe Biden is re-elected. It employed fake but realistic, photos showing boarded up storefronts, armored military patrols in the streets, and waves of immigrants creating panic. □

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24/7

From eggs to electronics to used cars, consumer inflation eased its grip on US households in July



A clearance sale sign is displayed at a retail store in Downers Grove, Ill., Wednesday, April 12, 2023. On Thursday, the Labor Department reports on U.S. consumer prices for July. Economists expect the report to show prices rose 3.3%.

(AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh, File)

By Paul Wiseman
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Inflation in the United States edged up in July after 12 straight months of declines. But excluding volatile food and energy costs, so-called core inflation matched the smallest monthly rise in nearly two years, a sign that the Federal Reserve's interest rate hikes have continued to slow price increases. The inflation data the government reported Thursday showed that overall consumer prices rose 3.2% from a year earlier. That was up from a 3% annual rise in June, which was the lowest rate in more than two years. The latest figure remained far below

last year's peak of 9.1%, though still above the Fed's 2% inflation target. The Fed, economists and investors, though, pay particular attention to core inflation figures for signs of where price pressures might be headed. From June to July, core inflation remained a tame 0.2%, thanks to easing prices for such items as used vehicles and electronics. And compared with 12 months earlier, core prices rose 4.7% in July, the smallest such increase since October 2021. "Core prices are moving in the right direction," said Rubeela Farooqi, chief U.S. economist for High Frequency Economics. "That will be welcome news to (the Fed's) policymakers."

Thursday's price data will be among the key barometers the central bank will weigh in deciding whether to continue raising interest rates. In its drive to tame inflation, the Fed has raised its benchmark rate 11 times since March 2022 to a 22-year high.

Overall prices, measured on a month-to-month basis, rose 0.2% in July; roughly 90% of it reflected higher housing costs. Excluding shelter, Paul Ashworth of Capital Economics calculated that core prices actually fell 0.1% from June to July. Food prices, which have pressured Americans' budgets for more than two years, rose a mild 0.2% from June to July. Eggs, meat, beer and dairy products all declined in price, though food is still up 4.9% over the past 12 months. Also falling in July were prices of televisions, audio equipment and pet food.

Energy costs rose just 0.1%.

Modestly higher gasoline prices were offset by falling electricity prices.

Used-vehicle prices fell for a second straight month, dipping 1.3% from June and 5.6% from a year ago. Those prices had surged last year as a shortage of computer chips disrupted production of new vehicles, forcing more buyers into the used market. □



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Emmy Awards move to January, placing them firmly in Hollywood's awards season

Associated Press

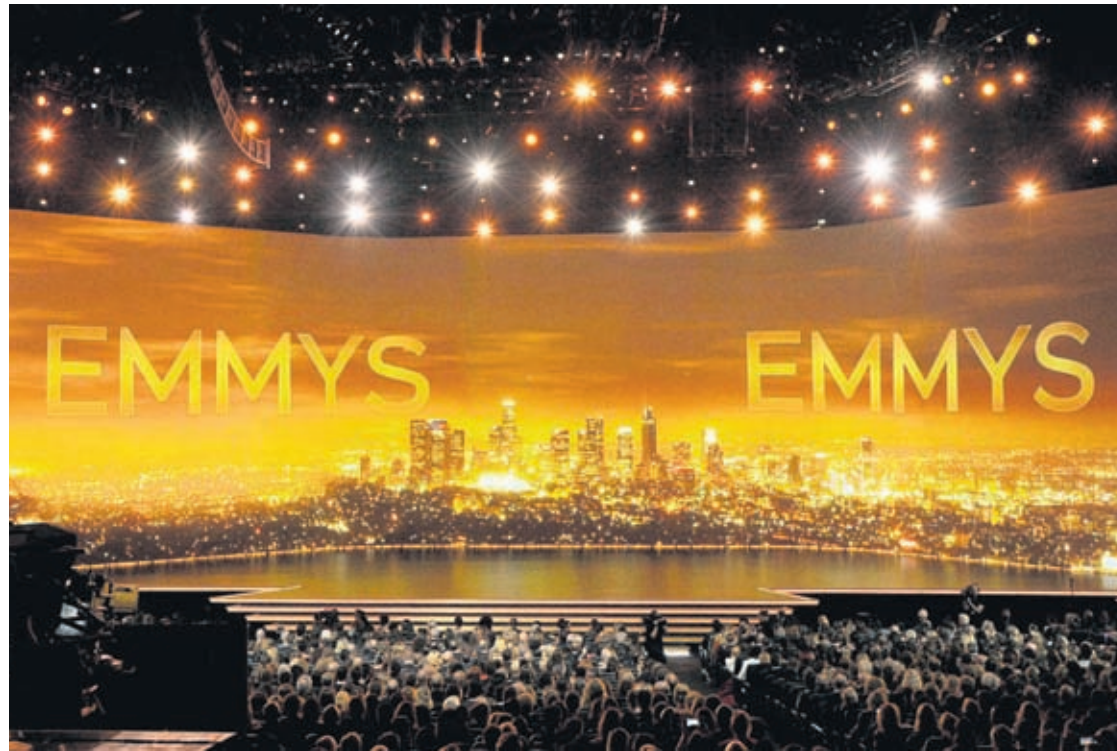
LOS ANGELES (AP) — The strike-delayed 75th Emmy Awards have a new date one that places them squarely within Hollywood's awards season, for a change.

Fox announced Thursday that the Emmys will air Jan. 15 from the Peacock Theater at LA Live in downtown Los Angeles. The show will air on the Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday.

The timing means that the Emmys, which honor the best shows on television, will air weeks before the Screen Actors Guild Awards, which honors film and television actors. Numerous other shows like the Golden Globe Awards, which haven't been confirmed for a return to network television, and the Critics Choice Awards, also are held in January.

The ceremony will happen roughly four months later than originally planned.

While the move is a bit of a throwback the first Emmys, where only six awards were handed out, were held in January 1949 the show tra-



This Sept. 22, 2019 file photo shows a view of the stage at the 71st Primetime Emmy Awards in Los Angeles.

(Photo by Chris Pizzello/Invision/AP, File)

ditionally airs in September, a slot that once heralded the upcoming fall television season. But that timing dates back to when broadcast television dominated both in viewership and Emmys contenders in a way that has been effaced by cable television

and streaming services. A person with knowledge of the plans but not authorized to speak publicly told The Associated Press last month that the show, originally scheduled for Sept. 17, would be moved because of the ongoing strikes by film and television

actors and screenwriters. HBO is the leading nominee heading into the ceremony, with three of its series "Succession," "The Last of Us" and "The White Lotus" racking up 74 nominations. In all, HBO received 127 nominations.

Because of the dual strikes,

actors and writers cannot campaign for their shows or do promotional interviews. The writers strike is now in its 101st day, longer than the 2007-2008 stoppage and no end is in sight.

No host has been announced for the ceremony, which will celebrate the Emmys' diamond anniversary. The ceremony has grown into a two-weekend affair, with many nominees in craft and guest acting categories receiving their awards during the Creative Arts Emmys, which will be held a week earlier on Jan. 6 and 7. An edited version of that ceremony will air on Fox on Jan. 13.

The Emmys will be executive produced by Jesse Collins, Dionne Harmon and Jeannae Rouzan-Clay of Jesse Collins Entertainment. Collins has become a go-to producer of Hollywood awards shows and other spectacles, producing the Grammys, Oscars as well as the acclaimed 2022 Super Bowl halftime show featuring Dr. Dre, Snoop Dogg and Mary J. Blige in a hip-hop celebration. □

Streamer Kai Cenat says he is 'beyond disappointed' in mayhem at NYC event

By Karen Matthews

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The 21-year-old social media influencer who was charged with inciting a riot after a crowd of thousands of his followers erupted in chaos in New York City last week says he is "beyond disappointed" in the bad behavior.

"Beyond disappointed in anybody who became disruptive that day, bro," streamer Kai Cenat said on Twitch on Wednesday.

Speaking publicly for the first time since some of his followers jumped on cars and hurled bottles during the Aug. 4 mayhem in Manhattan's Union Square, Cenat added, "None of

that is cool, bro, you feel what I'm saying?"

Thousands of fans of Cenat, who has millions of follow-

ers on Twitch, YouTube and other platforms, showed up in Union Square after Cenat announced that he would

be there giving away video game consoles and other electronic devices.

A crowd of mostly young people packed into Union Square Park, with some running through nearby streets, swinging objects at car windows and climbing on top of buses.

Police said several people were injured, including at least four who were taken to hospitals, and 65 people were arrested.

Cenat, who did not have a permit for the Union Square gathering, was arrested on charges of inciting a riot and promoting an unlawful gathering. He has an Aug. 18 court date.

Cenat, who grew up in the Bronx but now lives in At-

lanta, said he had planned the event as a gift to his hometown.

"It has been my dream to want to give back to the community that made me who I am, bro," he said on Twitch. "But after Friday, bro, I've come to realize the amount of not only power but influence that I have on people."

Cenat said he had watched videos of people jumping on cars "and I'm asking myself when I'm watching the video, 'Why? Like, why?' You feel what I'm saying?"

Cenat later recited the Lord's Prayer and said he was sorry "for those who've been affected by this whole thing." □



In this image taken from video provided by WABC-TV, internet influencer Kai Cenat, center left, places his hands on his face as he is helped into a New York Police vehicle near Union Square, Friday, Aug. 4, 2023, in New York.

(WABC-TV via AP)

Collin Morikawa has roots in Lahaina. He's pledging \$1,000 per birdie for Hawaii fires relief

By Doug Ferguson
Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Collin Morikawa is pledging \$1,000 for every birdie he makes the next three PGA Tour events to help with relief for the deadly wildfires in Hawaii. For him, it's personal.

His grandparents were born in Lahaina, the historic town on Maui where Front Street and all its restaurants and shops have been obliterated by the wind-swept fires that have claimed at least 36 lives. He still has relatives on Maui, though most have moved to Oahu.

"I think they're all right, but just to hear ... woke up this morning, just checking the news, and to see how many people have passed away from that, yeah. I'm at a loss for words," Morikawa said.

Morikawa, who won the PGA Championship and the British Open within two years after graduating from California-Berkeley, began his bid Thursday with six birdies in his opening round of 65 in the FedEx St. Jude



Collin Morikawa hits from the rough on the ninth green during the first round of the St. Jude Championship golf tournament Thursday, Aug. 10, 2023, in Memphis, Tenn.

(AP Photo/George Walker IV)

Championship.

He posted his plans on Instagram on Thursday morning, and by the end of the day had decided to send the money raised to Maui United Way and World Central Kitchen to help survivors on Maui and else-

where in Hawaii.

Morikawa grew up in the Los Angeles area, but he said his father used to spend summers in Lahaina because his grandparents were there. The Morikawa Restaurant closed several years ago, though a local

man happened to find a matchbook from the restaurant on eBay a few years back and worked through the PGA Tour and Sentry Tournament of Champions at Kapalua to get it to him.

"It's devastating what we've been seeing. The be-

fore-and-after photos are just heartbreaking, knowing that my entire dad's side of the family grew up there," he said. "My grandparents were born in Lahaina. We had the restaurant out there. That's what the photo was. We went there as kids. It's a special place."

"It's amazing how many things you take for granted really in life, and when you see that, it's just heartbreaking."

Morikawa is hopeful other people would join in on his pledge by contributing for his birdies. He still has 11 rounds left, and said that one friend texted him that maybe he could reach \$100,000.

"Look, it's one of the best places in the world we travel to year in and year out to go to Kapalua, play golf there," he said. "I know I'm going to ask my sponsors, I'm going to ask people that I know just to help out. Anything helps per birdie I make, whatever you can afford, whatever you want to put in. □"

Raiders QB Jimmy Garoppolo sharp in practice against former 49ers teammates

By Mark Anderson
Associated Press

HENDERSON, Nev. (AP) — Fred Warner was begging Jimmy Garoppolo to throw a pass at him, which in previous years wouldn't have been an unusual sight at practice when they were San Francisco 49ers teammates.

But they were on opposite sides Thursday with Warner at linebacker for the Niners and Garoppolo quarterbacking the starting offense for the Las Vegas Raiders as the teams met for a joint practice.

"That's my guy," Warner said afterward. "I love Jimmy. I love seeing him succeed. He had a great practice today, so I'm looking forward to (Friday) again."

The teams have another

joint practice Friday and then meet in a preseason game Sunday at Allegiant Stadium. Raiders coach Josh McDaniels didn't rule out playing Garoppolo on Sunday, but the chances don't appear likely. So these two practice days against the 49ers are especially important.

Garoppolo played the previous 5 1/2 seasons in San Francisco before signing with the Raiders in the offseason. He didn't have the easiest transition, a broken left foot delaying his signing by a day and then forcing him to miss organized team activities and minicamp.

When training camp began, Garoppolo often didn't look close to the quarterback who helped the 49ers reach the Super Bowl in 2019 and the NFC

title game in 2021.

But now he's starting to come around, and on Thursday was especially sharp during two late-practice scrimmage drives. He went 3 for 4 on one drive while connecting with three different receivers his solo miss a sideline pass to Davante Adams in which the receiver was just barely out of bounds. Then in a 2-minute drive, Garoppolo completed five of seven passes to three receivers, including a touchdown in double coverage to tight end Austin Hooper.

Garoppolo said on the first play that Niners linebacker Dre Greenlaw started playfully yapping at him, calling it an enjoyable experience facing a group of players he called his "brothers." That's despite how it ended

in the Bay Area.

The 49ers had planned to trade Garoppolo before the 2022 season and start Trey Lance, the third overall pick in the 2021 draft whom San Francisco gave up three first-round picks to

acquire.

But when Garoppolo underwent offseason shoulder surgery, that eliminated outside trade interest in him, prompting the 49ers to re-sign him at a reduced deal. □



Las Vegas Raiders quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo (10) takes part during a practice at NFL football training camp Thursday, July 27, 2023, in Henderson, Nev.

(AP Photo/John Locher)

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